

November 18, 1999

Stein Buer
Cal-Fed
1416 Ninth St
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Buer,

I'm looking forward to our meeting. I was delighted to learn that you are an engineer, with similar interests as myself, and that you are associated with Cal-Fed.

I've long been caught up in a "Catch-22" dilemma--whether to continue in my quest to communicate my ideas to people and factions with the knowledge and experience to determine if they have value, and, if so, how to proceed in bringing them to fruition (the process of ferreting out qualified personnel is tedious and frustrating), or to simply desist and admit defeat.

My greatest fear is that our ecosystems, not only locally, but around the nation and the globe, will lapse into toxic overload. I fear that we are but one short step behind the Soviet Union in terms of toxicity. The Soviets have done irreparable damage to their natural resources, especially, and most importantly, their water.

Although my ideas may appear somewhat simplistic in nature, in that they are "low-tech", they are designed to be of relatively low cost financially. I believe their strength lies in the fact that they are based on renewable natural resources. Because of this, I believe they will be effective.

My chief area of concern is the San Joaquin Delta--its waterways, underground aquifer, rivers, water supply, water commitments, agriculture, and surrounding cities and communities. We have a small window of opportunity: now. Time passes quickly, and bureaucracies move slowly.

I have a firm belief and confidence in Cal-Fed, in its ability to emerge victorious in the struggle for California's water, to demonstrate that it can be done, and show how to do it.

I remember my first reaction, many years ago, to Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. "...Oh, that can't happen here. Maybe that's someplace back east or somewhere else. But not here. Not California. Not my home...." Now, I think of all the people I know personally--family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances, who have been stricken with various forms of cancer, or children afflicted with learning disorders and disabilities.

These genetic interruptions have been steadily on the rise. I now know and understand what Rachel Carson was saying.

I often think of Kesterson Wildlife Refuge, and what happened to countless waterfowl because of only one mineral: selenium.

It is frightfully evident that even our best scientific minds don't really know and can't accurately project the long-term effects of some of the noxious chemical mixes already brewing in and around us.

I deeply appreciate the kind gesture you have made in offering not only to meet with me, but to assist in my travel because of my health. The opportunity and privilege of meeting with you far outweighs any discomfort or inconvenience I may suffer. The importance of the area we will be visiting and what it can accomplish for the Cosumnes and Mokelumne watershed are uppermost in my mind and heart.

In response to your inquiry about my background: Academic: B.A. from Chico State in Art with an English minor, and an elementary teaching credential. Personal: a voracious appetite for California history, a naturalist since childhood, a deep and abiding passion for the land and its wildlife.

Respectfully,



Donald Kraft